

Top Secret 219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday 13 March 1978

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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LATE ITEM

FRANCE: First-Round Election Results

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[] Almost complete results from the first round of the French legislative elections yesterday show the center-right winning about 47.6 percent of the votes and the left taking 48.8 percent. Additional returns from urban areas, where the polls were open later, are expected to push the left's total to slightly over 50 percent, but final results will not be announced until later today.

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[] Sixty-three candidates--almost all from the center-right--were elected outright; the remaining 428 seats will be decided in the run-off next week.

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[] These preliminary results show President Giscard's supporters and their rival and ally the Gaullists receiving about 23 percent each. The Communists have 19.8 percent, the Socialists 23.5, and the Left Radicals 2.3 percent.

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[] Prime Minister Raymond Barre, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, and Communist chief Georges Marchais focused on the weakness of the Socialists in their election night comments. The center-right parties continue to believe that their best chance for victory lies in weakening the appeal of the Socialists and their leader Francois Mitterrand.

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[] Marchais, who is ambivalent about coming to power as the Socialists' junior partner, noted that the left failed to do better because of Socialist intransigence. He called for a summit of the leftist parties later today and said that his party's attitude toward supporting its allies in the second round would depend on whether an agreement is reached at that meeting on a program and division of responsibilities in a left government.

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[] The Communists' second round tactics are crucial to a victory by the left, and with the gap between Communist and Socialist votes so small, Marchais is likely to try to drive a hard bargain.

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[] Mitterrand claimed that the results had confirmed the Socialists' status as the number-one party on the left. He is

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committed to making no further programmatic compromises with the Communists and to no division of portfolios until after the second round. Negotiations among the leftist parties could therefore drag on until Friday--the deadline for candidates to withdraw--and ultimately could be as fruitless as the left's efforts last fall to update its common program for governing.

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday 13 March 1978

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA: Situation Report

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In a decision publicly endorsed by President Siad, pro-Somali insurgent groups have vowed to continue guerrilla operations in the Ogaden, despite the withdrawal of Somali regulars. Ethiopia has taken an uncompromising public line on terms for a settlement of the Ogaden conflict, and it has rejected calls for the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban forces from Ethiopia and the stationing of observers in the Ogaden.

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25X1 [] Ethiopia has branded Siad's decision to withdraw Somali forces from the Ogaden as a meaningless and irrelevant gesture designed to gain some small advantage from a military debacle. The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry issued a public statement on Saturday rejecting calls for the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban forces as well as for the stationing of observers in the Ogaden. The statement said this constituted unacceptable interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs.

25X1 [] The communique also implied that Ethiopia intended to inflict as much punishment as possible on the retreating Somali forces before it would seriously consider proposals for a cease-fire. The announcement reiterated Ethiopian demands that Mogadiscio "renounce unconditionally all claims to the territories of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti," but did not repeat earlier demands that Somalia pay war reparations.

25X1 [] The leaders of the two Somali insurgent movements in the Ogaden--the Western Somali Liberation Front and the Somali-Abo Western Front--declared over the weekend that their guerrillas would continue to fight for self-determination despite the withdrawal of the regular Somali forces. In a speech in Mogadiscio on Saturday, Siad endorsed this decision. It is doubtful, however, that the insurgents will have enough supplies to mount significant operations for long.

25X1 [] The Soviet press has commented only indirectly on a cease-fire or on the presence of observers. On Saturday *Pravda* said the question of self-determination for Ethiopian nationalities was an internal matter rather than an issue for negotiation; Ethiopia has taken the same position. So far the Cuban Government has not reacted publicly to the cease-fire proposals.

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25X1 [] Other nations have reacted predictably. The UK, West Germany, France, and Iran have praised Somalia's action and called upon the USSR and Cuba to withdraw their forces from Ethiopia. Egypt's announcement described the withdrawal as "a constructive step toward finding a peaceful solution of the dispute within the OAU framework."

25X1 [] Despite Addis Ababa's hard line on terms for a settlement of the Ogaden conflict, both the Ethiopian and Somali Foreign Ministers have agreed to attend a meeting of the OAU mediation committee in Lagos on Thursday, according to a Nigerian Foreign Ministry official. Nigeria expects the Ethiopians to lobby vigorously for an OAU declaration that publicly brands Somalia as the aggressor in the conflict. Nigerian Commissioner for External Affairs Garba has indicated that any action by the UN Security Council should await this meeting. [] 25X1

DJIBOUTI: Concern About Terrorism

25X1 [] *//The commander of French forces in Djibouti has received reliable information that the Popular Liberation Movement is preparing for terrorist attacks early next month. The movement, made up of members of the Afar ethnic group, is armed and financed by Ethiopia. A series of terrorist acts late last year caused Djiboutian President Gouled's Issa-dominated, pro-Somali government to take repressive measures against the Afar community.//*

25X1 [] *//Gouled has since made overtures to restore good relations with the Afars, but ethnic tensions remain high. The Afar insurgents have apparently gained new recruits among Afars who had previously expressed their dissatisfaction through political means.//*

25X1 [] *//A French officer in Djibouti told the US Charge last week that Soviet and Cuban advisers are training the Afar insurgents in weapons, explosives, and urban terrorist techniques in three camps inside Ethiopia, which could be a prelude to an Ethiopian-Soviet effort to upset the fragile Djibouti political situation. The installation of a government friendly to Ethiopia through direct or indirect intervention would be appealing to Addis Ababa and would also facilitate Soviet naval access to the port at Djibouti.//*

25X1 [] //The French officer did not reveal the source of his information about Soviet and Cuban training of Djibouti terrorists, and the reports may be exaggerated. The French are acutely sensitive to possible terrorism in Djibouti because, with 4,000 French troops there, serious security problems would pose Paris the difficult choice of either increasing its internal security role or withdrawing its forces.//

25X1 [] //Gouled will probably demonstrate greater neutrality between Ethiopia and Somalia in the wake of the Somali defeat in the Ogaden, but it is doubtful that Addis Ababa will be satisfied with less than a pro-Ethiopian government in
25X1 Djibouti. []

GUINEA - SENEGAL - IVORY COAST

25X1 [] //The leaders of Guinea, Senegal, and Ivory Coast will meet in Monrovia late this week under the auspices of Liberian President Tolbert. The summit results from an initiative last December of Guinea's leftist President Toure, who hopes to reestablish diplomatic relations with his moderate neighbors with whom he has been at odds for nearly 20 years.//

25X1 [] Toure has tried before to improve relations with both countries, but his efforts have never progressed this far. The Gambian and Togolese Presidents will attend the session as observers.//

25X1 [] Toure is now emphasizing pragmatism over ideological dogmatism in his domestic and foreign policies, partly because moderate members of his entourage have been urging a more flexible approach to economic and political problems. Toure recognizes that greater economic cooperation and trade with his neighbors could help ease Guinea's chronic shortage of consumer goods and foodstuffs.

25X1 [] The Guinean leader also hopes a rapprochement will encourage many of the thousands of Guinean exiles who live in Senegal and Ivory Coast to take up the amnesty offer he made last year. This would enhance the effort to encourage internal

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reconciliation, which Toure has been pursuing since antigovernment riots erupted last August. It would also ease the fear of plotting by Guinean exiles, which has fostered a siege-like mentality in Guinea and contributed to regional tensions and periodic charges of Senegalese and Ivorian complicity. [REDACTED]

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CHINA-PHILIPPINES: Li and Huang Visit

[REDACTED] Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and Foreign Minister Huang Hua arrived in the Philippines yesterday for a four-day visit. This is the first visit by high-level Chinese leaders to a member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and in a speech last evening Li praised ASEAN and offered China's full backing to its search for neutrality and regional economic cooperation.

[REDACTED] Although the Chinese media have commented favorably on ASEAN during the past year, Li's comments are the first explicit endorsement of the organization by a senior Chinese official. Li's praise of ASEAN is in line with China's current diplomatic effort to improve its image in Asia. Also as part of this effort, Li and Huang will travel to Bangladesh later this week for a three-day visit.

[REDACTED] China's relations with the Philippines have been cordial since Manila recognized Peking and President Marcos made a state visit there in 1975. Peking approves of Marcos' effort to seek stronger ties with the other members of ASEAN and with the Third World.

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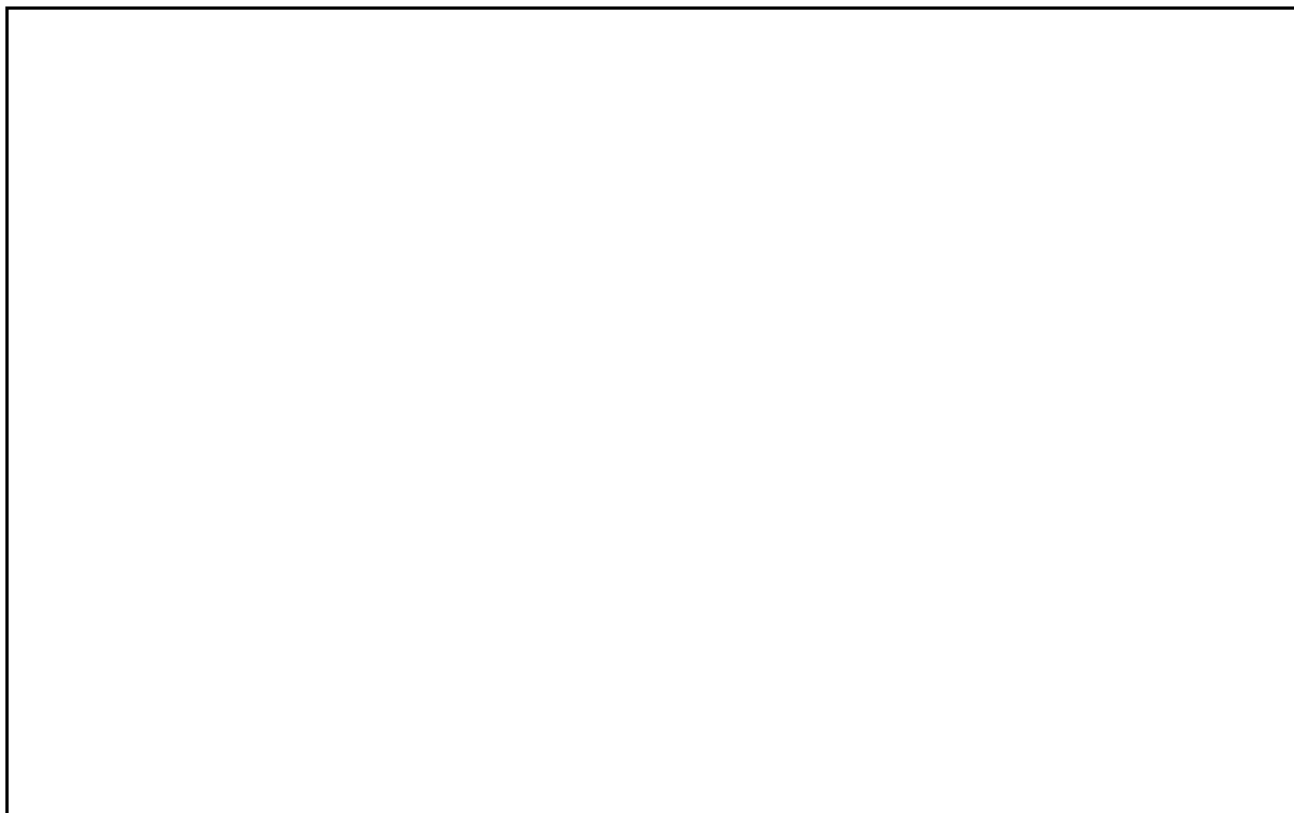
[REDACTED] Since 1975, Peking has muted its criticism of US military bases in the Philippines. If the subject comes up during the visit, the Chinese will probably restate their opposition in principle to foreign military bases but will also express "understanding" because they believe the US bases serve as an obstacle to increased Soviet activity in the region.

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25X1 [] Two problems trouble Chinese-Philippine relations. Philippine security officials still suspect that China provides some support to guerrillas of the New People's Army. Since establishing diplomatic relations, however, the Chinese have virtually ceased their radio broadcasts in support of the guerrillas, and there is no firm evidence that China providing them any military assistance.

25X1 [] The two countries also have conflicting territorial claims to islands in the South China Sea. The Philippines now occupies seven tiny islets in the Spratley Islands and is drilling for oil there. China strongly protested in 1976 when Philippine prospecting began, but it responded in a very low-key manner last week to news reports that the Philippines had occupied another island in the Spratley group. Last Wednesday, however, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told a foreign journalist that China's 1976 protest still stands. []

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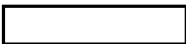
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BRIEFS

Egypt

 In an interview published over the weekend in the Egyptian magazine *October*, a forum for policy statements,



Egyptian President Sadat attempted to retain maneuvering room in Middle East peace negotiations. He held open the possibility of reconciliation with those who oppose his peace initiative and sought to refute statements that his initiative was at an end.

25X1 [] Sadat made three points: Egypt is prepared to resume relations with the USSR on the basis of mutual respect; rapprochement is possible even with the Arab rejectionists; and continued Israeli refusal to respond in the spirit of his peace initiative will not mean its end but only that more time is needed.

25X1 [] The Egyptian leader reiterated earlier allusions to a time limit, however, when he claimed that the second disengagement agreement and the mandate of the United Nations emergency forces stationed between Egypt and Israel expires in October. []

Greece-Turkey

25X1 [] Prime Ministers Ecevit of Turkey and Caramanlis of Greece yesterday concluded a two-day summit at Montreux, Switzerland, and promised to seek peaceful solutions to their bilateral problems. No details of the talks are available.

25X1 [] In a joint communique, both leaders agreed to maintain a dialogue and examine each other's positions carefully. Ecevit called the summit a success because it removed the "psychological barriers" between Greece and Turkey. Caramanlis, when queried by reporters, was more guarded in his assessment, saying only that the main purpose was to exchange views.

25X1 [] The outcome of the conference was overshadowed by Ecevit's harsh reaction to US statements linking passage of the US-Turkish Defense Cooperation Agreement with a settlement on Cyprus and a solution of Greek-Turkish disputes. Ecevit vaguely warned that this tactic threatens Turkish-US relations. The Turkish Prime Minister has repeatedly stressed the need to isolate Turkey's international problems and treat them separately.

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